

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN
AF/P - MR. POPE
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 7

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 7,
1976:

Q: BOB, WE HAD A LARGE SERIES OF QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE
BRIEFING YESTERDAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE COUNT WAS.
MAYBE ONE OF YOUR ASSISTANTS KNOWS HOW MANY QUESTIONS
THERE WERE THAT WERE TAKEN. AND I BELIEVE THERE WERE SIX
REPLIES THAT WERE GIVEN. DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW MANY QUES-
TIONS THERE WERE? WERE THERE PERHAPS TWENTY OR THIRTY
YESTERDAY?

A: I THINK THE QUESTIONS CAME UNDER SEVERAL HEADINGS.
ONE WAS ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF THE ISRAELI OPERATION. AND
I THINK THE SECRETARY ANSWERED THAT, AT LEAST IN PART,
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YESTERDAY IN CHICAGO WHEN HE WAS ASKED THAT QUESTIONS.

Q: I DIDN'T SEE HIS ANSWER OF COURSE, AND YOU DON'T HAVE A
COPY AVAILABLE FOR US HERE.

A: WELL, LET ME READ IT--SUMMARIZE IT AT LEAST. HE SAID

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A GENERAL RULE IN A
SITUATION LIKE THIS; THAT CLEARLY THE ATTACK ON AN AIRPORT
IS AN UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK; BUT EQUALLY CLEAR IS THAT THE
HIJACKING OF AIRLINERS, THE HOLDING OF A HUNDRED INNOCENT
PEOPLE FOR RANSOM IN A SITUATION WHERE THE HOST GOVERNMENT,
AT A MINIMUM, PROVED IMPOTENT TO ENFORCE ANY ACCEPTED

INTERNATIONAL LAW, INDICATES THAT WE FACE HERE A NEW INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

THE SECRETARY WENT ON TO RECALL THAT WE HAVE OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS PROPOSED TO THE UN AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WHERE NO COUNTRY WOULD PERMIT HIJACKED AIRLINERS TO LAND OR WHERE, AUTOMATICALLY, HIJACKED AIRPLANES THAT DID LAND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND WOULD RECEIVE NO SUPPORT WHATEVER FROM THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED.

HE NOTED THAT FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE FAILED IN THIS EFFORT. AND HE REITERATED THAT WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOME INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT BE MADE TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM.

THERE WAS A QUESTION ABOUT THE RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF THE C-130S SUPPLIED TO ISRAEL, AND THE ANSWER IS THAT --

Q: IS THIS FROM THE BRIEFING NOW, OR IS THIS FROM THE SECRETARY?

A: NO, I WAS REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S REPLY IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ABOUT OUR VIEWS ON THE LEGALITY OF THE RAID. THE SECOND QUESTION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, CONCERNED THE RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF THE C-130S WHICH ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES. AND THE ANSWER IS, OF COURSE, THAT ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED ITS C-130S AND MOST OTHER DEFENSE ARTICLES FROM US UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES UNCLASSIFIED

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ACT. THE ARRANGEMENT MADE WITH ISRAEL, AS WELL AS WITH OTHER RECIPIENTS UNDER THE FMS, PROVIDES THAT SUCH ARTICLES ARE TO BE USED FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE, AND TO PERMIT THE RECIPIENT TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL COLLECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS OR MEASURES CONSISTENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

NOW, TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION, "DID THE ISRAELI OPERATION IN UGANDA VIOLATE ANY OF THESE RESTRICTIONS?", OUR POSITION ON THAT AND OTHER ISSUES WILL BE MADE KNOWN DURING THE COURSE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THIS QUESTION.

Q: BOB, WHEN YOU SAY THE U.S. POSITION ON WHETHER ISRAEL

VIOLATED THE END-USE PROVISIONS OF THE FMS WILL BE MADE DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL --

A: WILL BE MADE KNOWN.

Q: -- DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE THIS POSITION WORKED OUT AND YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE DEBATE TO MAKE IT KNOWN, OR YOU ARE TO HAVE IT WORKED OUT BY THE TIME OF

THE DEBATE?

A: I THINK THE LATTER. I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE COMPLETELY WORKED OUT OUR POSITION ON THE DEBATE.

Q: ISN'T THE LEGAL ADVISER STILL COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THE FACTS OF THE CASE?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTS. AND BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID THE LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE IS CONTINUING ITS EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE EXPECT TO BE PREPARED TO GIVE OUR POSITION WHEN THE MATTER IS CONSIDERED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

Q: PRIOR TO THAT, DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY CURRENT VIEW THAT IT CAN EXPRESS ON THE CHARGE BY UGANDA -- AND OTHERS I GATHER -- THAT THIS REPRESENTED AN ACT OF AGGRESSION?

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A: THERE IS GOING TO BE A DEBATE, AND UGANDA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, AS WELL AS ISRAEL, TO STATE THEIR POSITIONS. AND THEN WE WILL MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN.

Q: BOB, I DON'T SEE WHY THE U.S. SHOULD WAIT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEW ON A DIRECT BILATERAL U.S.-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WHICH CONCERNS CONGRESS, THE ADMINISTRATION, AND ISRAEL, AND NOT A MATTER FOR ANY SECURITY COUNCIL DECISION. IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER WHETHER ISRAEL FULFILLED THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ITS OWN CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A: WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION TODAY.

Q: BOB, HASN'T THE UNITED STATES POSITION BEEN IMPLICITLY MADE CLEAR ALREADY BY THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT SENT CONGRATULATIONS AFTER THE OPERATION TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN?

A: HE EXPRESSED OUR GRATIFICATION ON THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES AS WELL AS THE SIXTEEN AMERICAN CITIZENS. IT DIDN'T ADDRESS ANY OTHER POINT.

Q: OBVIOUSLY THE OPERATION ACHIEVED THAT WHICH HE IS GRATIFIED ABOUT, SO THEREFORE THE UNITED STATES POSITION APPEARS ALREADY CLEAR, IS IT NOT?

A: AS I SAID, ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED -- AND I THINK THIS IS USUAL WHEN WE ARE SEIZED WITH AN

ISSUE TO BE CONSIDERED BY AN IMMINENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING -- NORMALLY WE DO NOT TRY TO ANTICIPATE OUR POSITION HERE.

Q: WHEN IS THAT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE?

A: IT MAY TAKE PLACE TOMORROW. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION AS TO WHEN IT IS SCHEDULED, BUT IT IS IMMINENT.

Q: OBVIOUSLY THE DETAILS OF THIS ATTACK ON THE AIRPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY, BUT IT'S HARDLY UNPRECEDENTED. THE ISRAELIS WENT INTO BEIRUT AIRPORT IN DECEMBER OF '68 AND WIPE OUT TWO-THIRDS OF LEBANON'S CIVIL AIR FLEET. I MEAN ON WHAT BASIS DOES THE SECRETARY SAY THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED? OBVIOUSLY EACH INSTANCE IS GOING TO BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THOSE THAT PRECEDE IT.

A: I THINK YOU ARE DRAWING A PARALLEL BETWEEN ACTIONS RATHER THAN WHAT LED TO THIS ACTION. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE BEIRUT INCIDENT AND THE ENTEBBE INCIDENT.

Q: BOB, THERE WERE A SERIES OF MANY OTHER QUESTIONS, DESPITE WHATEVER THE COUNT SHOWS, WHICH I DON'T REGARD AS HAVING BEEN ANSWERED YESTERDAY, CERTAINLY NOT ANSWERED RESPONSIVELY. MY OFFICE IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE SOME MUCH MORE SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION BEARING ON THIS ESSENTIAL POINT; NAMELY, BY YOUR COUNT THERE WERE SIXTEEN AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE OPERATION AS HOSTAGES AT ONE TIME AND ANOTHER. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A MUCH MORE EXPLICIT ACCOUNT OF WHAT IT IS THE UNITED STATES DID ABOUT THE FATE OF THESE AMERICANS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IN A REPLY THAT WAS DELIVERED YESTERDAY THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INCIDENT LAY WITH THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT REGARD THAT AS A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES DID ABOUT THE FATE OF THESE SIXTEEN AMERICANS. CAN YOU GIVE US A MORE RESPONSIVE REPLY AND MUCH MORE EXPLICITLY AS TO WHAT WAS DONE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR

TERRORISM?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE AT ALL OF OUR BRIEFINGS DURING THIS INCIDENT, BUT WE INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED -- SPECIFICALLY AND MORE ESPECIALLY BONN BECAUSE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA, AS WELL AS TEL AVIV AND PARIS AND OTHER COUNTRIES. AND THROUGH BONN WE WERE IN INDIRECT CONTACT WITH THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF THESE PEOPLE,

URGING FOR THE RELEASE OF THESE PEOPLE.

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THE HIJACKING WAS FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY AT SEVERAL LEVELS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. THE SECRETARY WAS ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO GET THE COOPERATION OF OTHER FOREIGN LEADERS TO BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY AND COORDINATOR FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM WAS THE PRIMARY ACTION OFFICE. NOT ONLY WAS IT THE ACTION OFFICE WHICH HAD THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND WORLD LEADERS, BUT IT ALSO WAS ON DUTY AROUND THE CLOCK IN THIS CAPACITY AS WELL AS PROVIDING INFORMATION TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND TO THE NEXT OF KIN OF THE FAMILIES. SO I THINK THAT DESCRIBES WHAT WE DID. I DO NOT THINK WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A LOG BY THE HOUR OF THE NUMBERS OF MESSAGES THAT WE COMMUNICATED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU A SERIES OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, IF I MAY.

WE WERE TOLD YESTERDAY, ONE OF THE QUESTIONS YESTERDAY WAS HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY APPROACHED GENERAL AMIN ASKING HIM TO INTERCEDE IN FAVOR OF FREEING THE HOSTAGES. THE ANSWER WAS, "NO. WE WERE TRYING TO CONTACT AMIN CONCERNING OUR AMERICAN CITIZEN HOSTAGES BUT WERE OVERTAKEN BY THE ISRAELI RESCUE EFFORTS." NOW, I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS BECAUSE, AS YOU KNOW, THERE WAS AN EXPIRATION DATE ON THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE AND THEN THERE WAS AN EXTENSION OF THAT DATE. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO CONTACT AMIN UNTIL AFTER THE EXTENSION DATE, AFTER ONE DEADLINE ALREADY HAD PASSED FOR POSSIBLE EXECUTION OF THE HOSTAGES?

A: I TOLD YOU THAT FROM THE OUTSET WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WHICH REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS

IN UGANDA AND THEY HAD COMMUNICATED OUR REQUEST TO THE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES.

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Q: BOB, WHY DIDN'T YOU SIMPLY CALL AMIN, AS THE ISRAELIS DID AND ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS DID? APPARENTLY HE WAS ANSWERING HIS PHONE.

A: I CANNOT REALLY PROVIDE YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT. I DO

NOT THINK IT IS ALL THAT RELEVANT. WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH HIM THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAD CONTACTS WITH HIM. AS YOU KNOW, HE WAS ALSO OUT OF THE COUNTRY, OUT OF HIS OWN COUNTRY, THROUGH SOME OF THIS PERIOD.

Q: DID THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RAID WAS TAKING PLACE?

A: NO. THE FIRST WORD WE HAD WAS WHEN THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, MR. DINITZ, TELEPHONED THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK ABOUT SIX O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT, AT WHICH TIME, I BELIEVE, ALL, OR AT LEAST MOST, OF THE ISRAELI FORCE WAS ON ITS WAY OUT. THE SECRETARY IMMEDIATELY, OF COURSE, REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND, I BELIEVE, SUBSEQUENTLY HAD OTHER TELEPHONE CALLS WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES REGARD THIS AS AN INTELLIGENCE FAILURE ON ITS PART?

A: NO.

Q: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY?

A: THE PREMISE OF YOUR QUESTION ASSUMES THAT A GOVERNMENT SHOULD KNOW EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING. AND PART OF THE SUCCESS OF SUCH AN OPERATION IS THE SUCCESS IN NOT HAVING OTHER PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING. SO I DO NOT ACCEPT THE PREMISE.

Q: I JUST WANT TO PURSUE THAT, IF I MAY. WOULD YOU SAY THEN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPRIMANDING OR OTHER ACTIVITY INTERNALLY IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OVER THIS AFFAIR?

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A: NO.

Q: DID THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ENTEBBE AIRPORT TO THE ISRAELIS IN ADVANCE OF THE OPERATION

A: NO.

Q: BOB, JUST TO FOLLOW UP ON MURREY'S QUESTION A LITTLE, DON'T WE HAVE SOME KIND OF RADAR INSTALLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA, AND WOULD THEY NOT PRESUMABLY HAVE BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF THESE PLANES AS THEY WERE COMING IN?

A: I JUST REALLY CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OUR INSTALLATIONS IN FACT TRACK ALL AIR-

LINERS. THERE IS AIR TRAFFIC FLYING NORTH AND SOUTH IN THAT GENERAL AREA.

Q: WELL, I MEAN IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAVE INSTALLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA THAT ARE INTENDED TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL AIR TRAFFIC IN EAST AFRICA AND THAT THESE ARE RUN BY THE CIA. COULD YOU, FIRST OF ALL, ESTABLISH WHETHER THAT IS TRUE, AND IF SO, WHETHER THESE FOLKS KNEW ABOUT THE PLANES COMING IN AND WHETHER THEY DID ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER I WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BUT I AM HAPPY TO LOOK INTO IT.

Q: BOB, DID THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PROVIDE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH ANY EVIDENCE OF UGANDA'S COMPLICITY IN THE HIJACKING OR THE KEEPING OF THE HOSTAGES?

A: I REALLY DO NOT THINK I CAN GO MUCH BEYOND, OR I CANNOT REALLY GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THIS. WE WILL BE LISTENING TO THE DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH, AS I SAID, IS IMMINENT. AND WE WILL BE LISTENING TO WHAT BOTH SIDES HAVE TO SAY, AND THEN WE WILL MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN.

Q: THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT AT THE MINIMUM WAS IMPOTENT TO ENFORCE GENERALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL LAWS. THE IMPLICATION OF THAT STATEMENT IS THAT THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT WAS IN SOME WAY OR DID IN SOME WAY CONNIVE AT THE HIJACKING.

A: I HAVE HEARD THAT CHARGE. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS A CORRECT DEFINITION OF WHAT HE SAID. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT OBSERVED FACTS: THE PLANE LANDED IN UGANDA AND IT REMAINED--THE PEOPLE WERE HELD IN CUSTODY AND WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED AT A PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT CONNIVED OR ASSISTED THE HIJACKERS IN ANY WAY?

A: I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE ALL THE FACTS YET. WE ARE EXAMINING THE FACTS.

THAT IS WHAT I INDICATED EARLIER IN ANSWER TO OZZIE'S QUESTION.

Q: BOB, AFTER THE SECRETARY WAS NOTIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DINITZ, DID THE UNITED STATES TAKE ANY ACTION EITHER TO FACILITATE OR TO DETER COMPLETION OF THE ISRAELI OPERATION?

A: THE ISRAELI OPERATION WAS THEN, AS I HAVE INDICATED, COMPLETED. THEY HAD TAKEN THE PEOPLE OUT.

Q: THEY WERE STILL IN AFRICA THEN I BELIEVE.

A: YES.

Q: DID THE UNITED STATES TAKE ANY ACTION, ONCE IT WAS NOTIFIED, TO FACILITATE OR TO DETER THE ISRAELI OPERATION?

A: NO.

Q: BOB, HAS THERE BEEN ANY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THE INCIDENT?

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A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT.

Q: AND REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT.

A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS.

Q: COULD YOU TAKE THAT?

A: I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q: BOB, I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR NOW. YOU ARE SAYING THAT WHEN THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT AT A MINIMUM PROVED IMPOTENT TO ENFORCE ANY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL LAW, THAT THAT WAS NOT INTENDED AS AN ACCUSATORY STATEMENT?

A: NO, I DO NOT THINK SO. I THINK THAT IS A STRAIGHT-FORWARD OBSERVATION OF THE FACTS AS THEY UNFOLDED.

Q: COULD YOU CLARIFY THIS POINT? IT READS TO ME AS THOUGH HE WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH THAT AT THE MINIMUM THERE WAS A BREAKDOWN OF THE NORMALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORDER, WHICH IS A STANDARD INTERNATIONAL LAW PRECEDENT FOR A COUNTRY TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION TO PROTECT ITS OWN CITIZENS.

A: I WOULD JUST ACCEPT WHAT HE SAID. HE SAID, "IN A SITUATION WHERE THE HOST GOVERNMENT AT A MINIMUM PROVED IMPOTENT TO ENFORCE ANY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT WAS UNABLE TO ENFORCE IT FOR WHATEVER REASON --

Q: THAT, OF COURSE, IS NOT MR. AMIN'S VERSION OF EVENTS.

YOU'RE SAYING IT IS A STATEMENT OF FACT, WHICH IS CERTAINLY DISPUTED BY THE UGANDANS.

A: THE FACT IS THAT THE PEOPLE WERE HOSTAGES AND HADN'T BEEN RELEASED.

Q: THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS WERE WIDELY INTERPRETED BY REPORTERS ON THE SCENE YESTERDAY AS CRITICAL OF AMIN. AND YOU ARE SAYING HE DID NOT MEAN TO BE CRITICAL OF AMIN?
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A: I DID NOT SIT DOWN AND HAVE AN EXTENDED CONVERSATION WITH HIM ABOUT WHAT HE MEANT BY EACH WORD. I ACCEPTED WHAT HE SAID AT FACE VALUE. AND TO ME AT LEAST IT IS CLEAR WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

Q: I MEAN DOESN'T IT SUGGEST, BOB, WHEN HE THROWS IN THAT LITTLE PHRASE "AT A MINIMUM PROVED IMPOTENT" THAT HE IS IMPLYING THAT THERE MIGHT IN FACT HAVE BEEN SOMETHING MORE?

A: YES, I WILL CONCEDE THAT. WE DO NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTS YET, AND THAT IS THE REASON HE PHRASED HIS ANSWER THE WAY HE DID.

Q: BOB, TODAY THE KAMPALA DOMESTIC SERVICE SAID THE MILITARY SPOKESMAN HAS SAID, "THIRTY AIRCRAFT BELIEVED TO BE ISRAEL AND AMERICAN ARE BEING DETECTED BY THE UGANDA RADAR APPROACHING OUR COUNTRY FROM KENYA." WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS ALLEGATION?

A: OBVIOUSLY NO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT ARE APPROACHING ENTEBBE.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES TAKEN ANY ACTION IN REGARD TO THIS ALLEGATION?

A: THIS IS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD OF THIS ALLEGATION.

Q: WELL, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SEEN THE EARLIER NEWS ACCOUNTS IN WHICH UGANDA HAS EXPRESSED ALARM THAT IT IS BEING ATTACKED BY SOMEBODY.

A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT I COULD RECOUNT ALL OF THE NEWS ACCOUNTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. I WAS, AS YOU KNOW, OUT OF THE CITY YESTERDAY FROM 5:30 IN THE MORNING UNTIL 12:30 A.M. THIS MORNING. BUT I WAS READING THE NEWSPAPERS IN CHICAGO AND LISTENING TO THE RADIO. I AM NOT AWARE OF EVERY REPORT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU THIS BROADER QUESTION. IS THE UNITED
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STATES CONCERNED AT ALL ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
RETALIATION IN THE AREA, OF ANY KIND OF MILITARY ACTION
THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN BY UGANDA OR ANYONE ELSE -- ?

A: I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.
I REALLY DO NOT KNOW.

Q: YOU CANNOT TELL US WHETHER THERE IS ANY SPECIAL
WATCH BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE SITUATION IN THE
AFTERMATH OF THE INCIDENT?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL WATCH, NO.

Q: BOB, YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO LIMIT YOURSELF, DID YOU,
WHEN YOU SAID NO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE APPROACHING
ENTEBBE? WOULD YOU EXTEND THAT TO ALL OF UGANDA?

A: YES.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME IMMEDIATE
USUN N Y
NATO
SANA
TUNIS
BAGHDAD
DOHA
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